Amendment in Panchayati Raj Act

892. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain States have been demanding amendments in Panchayati Raj Act;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to bring amendments including providing for two tier system in local bodies; and

(c) by when the amendments are likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Having considered all aspects of the proposal, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has decided to facilitate and secure implementation of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 by States.UTs, in letter and spirit, by encouraging States /UTs to adopt carefully drawn-up plans of action to implement the existing provisions of the Constitution.

Constitution of District Planning Committees

893. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the State Governments to expedite Constitution of District Planning Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that funds to augment income of Panchayats would be allocated to States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Between July and December, 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table Meetings with the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved by consensus 150 points for action relating to 18 dimensions of Panchayati Raj which have been put

together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table held at Jaipur. During the second Round Table held at Mysore on 28-29 August, 2004 the subject of Planning was discussed. In this meeting it was resolved that there shall be constituted in every State at the District level, a District Planning Committee (DPC) by the end of the financial year 2004-05 wherever such DPCs did not exist. It was also resolved that all DPCs should be constituted according to the procedure laid down in the Constitution in Article 243 ZD(2). A letter was sent by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to all the Secretaries of Panchayati Raj in the States on 30th May, 2005 requesting them to constitute the DPCs in their respective States if the same have not been constituted. Their attention was also drawn to the meeting of Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj in the States/Union Territories held on 11th April, 2005 wherein the Ministry of Panchayati Raj desired that the States that have not constituted DPCs in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution should do so within 31st October, 2005.

(c) and (d) Under Article 280 (3)(bb) of the Constitution, the Central Finance Commission is to recommend the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State on the basis of the recommendation made by the Finance Commission of the State. The XII Finance Commission has recommended, and Government have accepted, that a grant of Rs. 20,000 crore be provided to Panchayats over the five-year period from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

MoU for computerization of panchayats

894. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with State Governments for the computerization of panchayats across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 35 to 40 per cent of panchayats would be computerized in the first year; and